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ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Establishment of a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the General Assembly decided:

> "[T]o recommend that a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice be established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, which would hold its inaugural meeting during 1992, and recommend[ed] that the meeting of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control scheduled for February 1992 be cancelled and to make available the funds necessary for the work of the new commission within the budget for the biennium 1992-1993."

2. The Assembly also requested the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1992, from 4 to 7 February 1992:

> "(a) To dissolve the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control;
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> "(b) To establish the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice as a new functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the statement of principles and programme of action;
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> "(c) To endorse the role and functions of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the statement of principles and programme of action."

3. By the same resolution, the Assembly decided "that the present members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control should be invited to participate during the first two days of the inaugural session of the new commission, at the expense of their respective Governments, except in the case of Committee members from least developed countries, in order to facilitate an orderly transition", and also decided "to retain for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, without prejudice to additional funds that may be made available by the Secretary-General, all funds currently allocated to the programme, as well as any savings realized by restructuring".

4. Should the Council decide to establish a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice as its functional commission, it would be called upon to adopt the "Statement of Principles and Programme of Action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme", contained in the annex to resolution 46/152, and to elect the members of the commission at its organizational session. The relevant paragraphs of the Statement of Principles read as follows:

> "The commission shall consist of forty Member States of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Its members shall serve for a term of three years, except that the terms of one half of the first elected members, whose names shall be chosen by lot, shall expire after two years. Each Member State shall make every effort to ensure that its delegation includes experts and senior officials with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice, preferably with policy responsibility in the field. Provisions should be made in the regular budget of the United Nations to defray the travel costs of the representatives of the least developed countries that are members of the Commission.
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> "It is recommended that in order to commence the work of the commission as soon as possible, the geographical distribution of the commission should be as follows: African States (12), Asian States (9), Latin American and Caribbean States (8), Western European and other States (7), Eastern European States (4). The size and geographical distribution of the commission may be reviewed two years after the first session of the commission."